

Appln. of: Guemmer
Serial No.: 10/622,135
Filed: July 18, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18-20, 22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under § 102(b)

as being anticipated by Stalker.

Claim 1 has been amended to require:

at least one rotor row and a plurality of stator rows each having external surfaces positioned in a fluid flow, at least one blade thereof which is positioned on throat-confining surfaces, the at least one blade including both a device for fluid removal from the fluid flow in an area of the external surface of the blade and a device for fluid supply into the fluid flow in the area of the external surface of the blade,

This amendment is for clarification only and is not intended to narrow the scope of the claim, as claim 1 was always intended to require that the at least one blade include both 1) a device for fluid removal from the fluid flow in an area of the external surface of the blade and 2) a device for fluid supply into the fluid flow in the area of the external surface of the blade. See, for instance, the present specification at page 8, lines 30-32, as well as Figs. 5-8.

Stalker does not disclose or suggest such an embodiment. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Stalker that any blade have both 1) a device for fluid removal from the fluid flow in an area of the external surface of the blade and 2) a device for fluid supply into the fluid flow in the area of the external surface of the blade, as required by claim 1. Rather, in Stalker, each blade includes either 1) a device for fluid removal or 2) a device for fluid supply but not both. See Stalker at col. 2, lines 22-61. Stator blades 32 and 33 have fluid removal slots to supply fluid to blades 30 and 31, respectively. Rotor blades 54 and 56 correspondingly have

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fluid removal slots 84 and 86 to supply fluid to rotor blades 50 and 52, respectively. No blade has both 1) a device for fluid removal from the fluid flow in an area of the external surface of the blade and 2) a device for fluid supply into the fluid flow in the area of the external surface of the blade, as required by claim 1. Thus, Stalker is similar to the prior art embodiment disclosed in Fig. 2 of the present application where a downstream rotor removes fluid to supply to an upstream rotor. Stalker does not recognize and cannot provide the benefits of the bifunctional fluid circulation control of the claimed invention. See the present specification at page 3, lines 16-21 and page 9, line 1 through page 10, line 19.

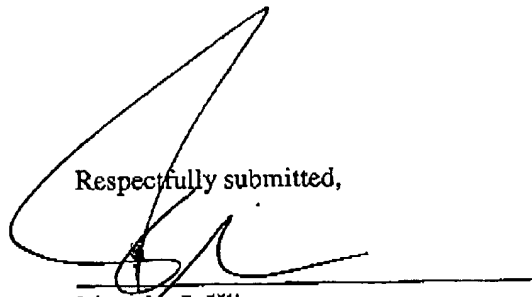
For these reasons, Stalker does not anticipate or render obvious the present invention as claimed in claim 1 and it is respectfully requested that the rejections under Stalker be withdrawn.

Since the remaining claims all depend from claim 1, they are believed to be in allowable condition for the same reasons as set forth with respect to claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice is respectfully requested. If anything else is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, it is kindly requested that the undersigned be contacted.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Klima', is written over a horizontal line.

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